MARVEL COMICS
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!
MARVEL TEAM-UP Starring:
SPIDER-MAN and MAN-THING
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#4
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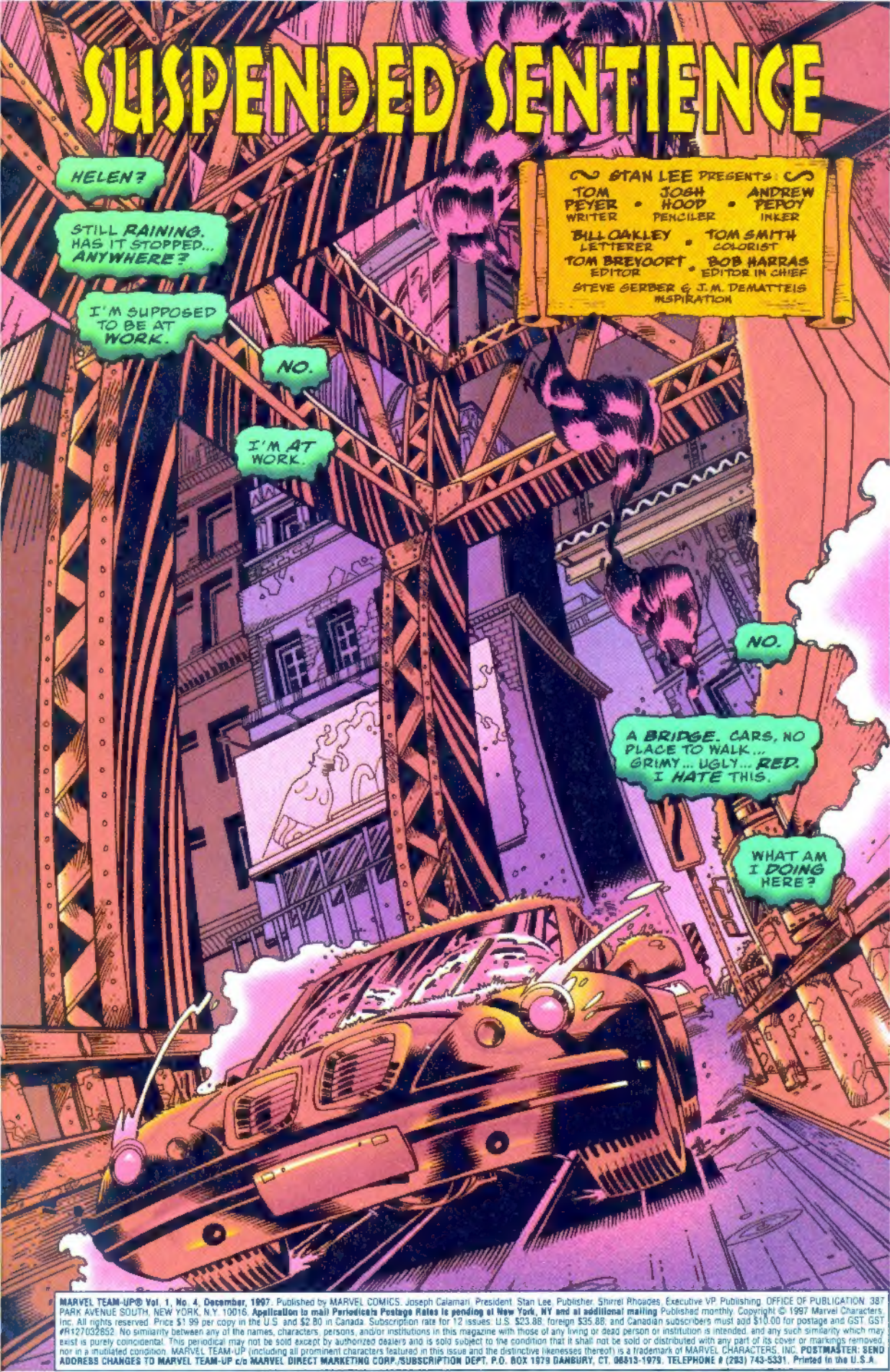

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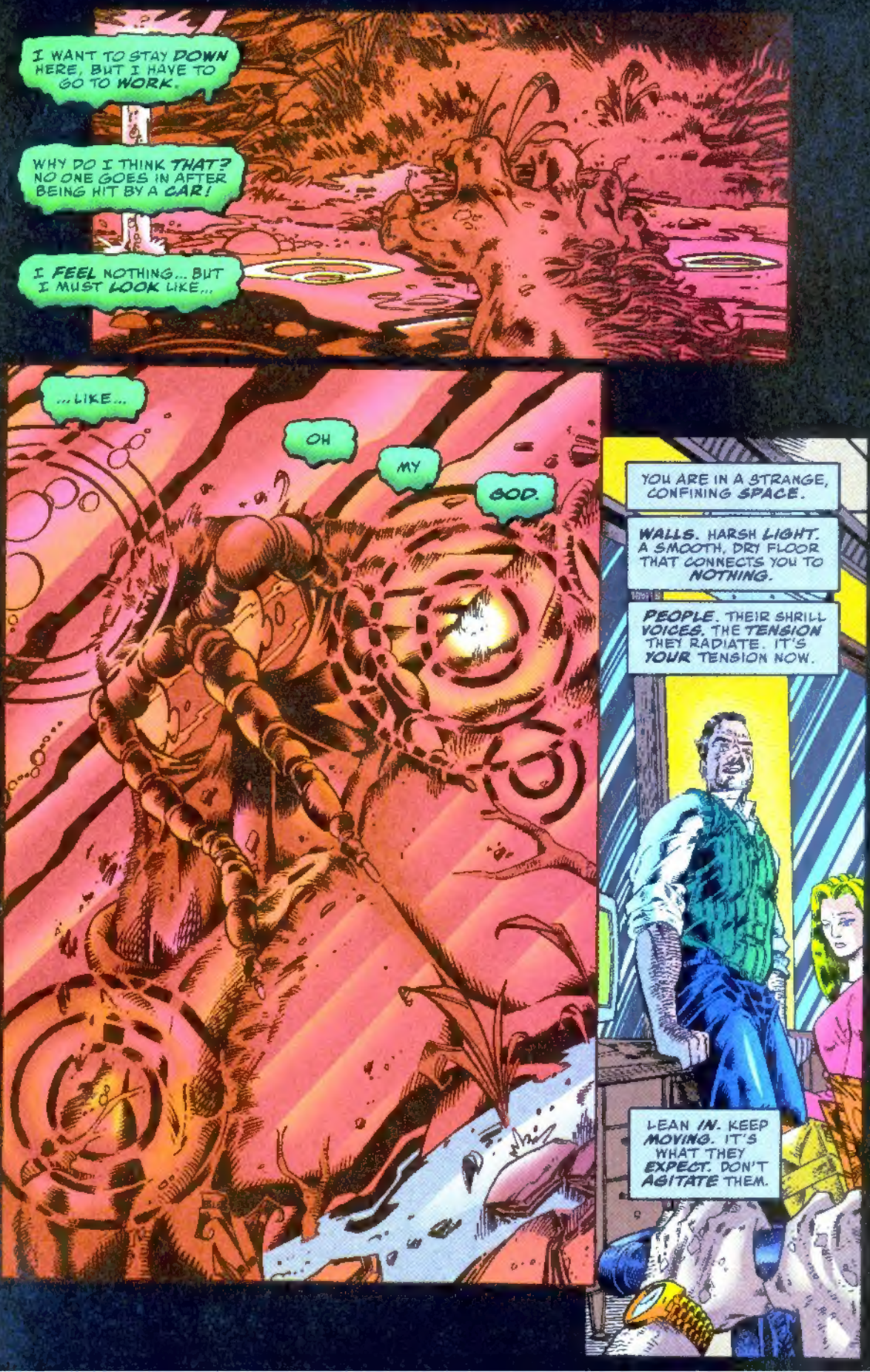
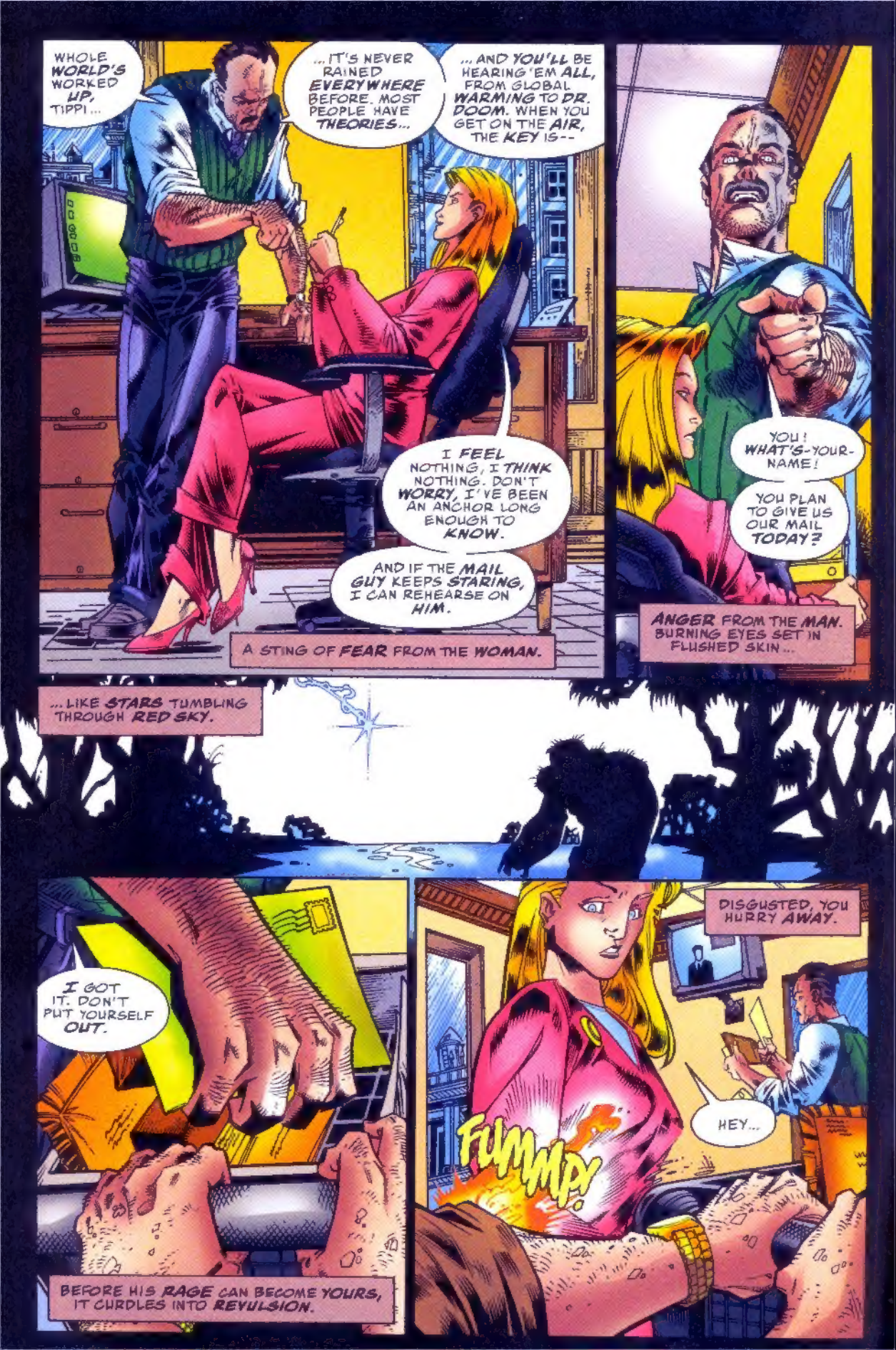
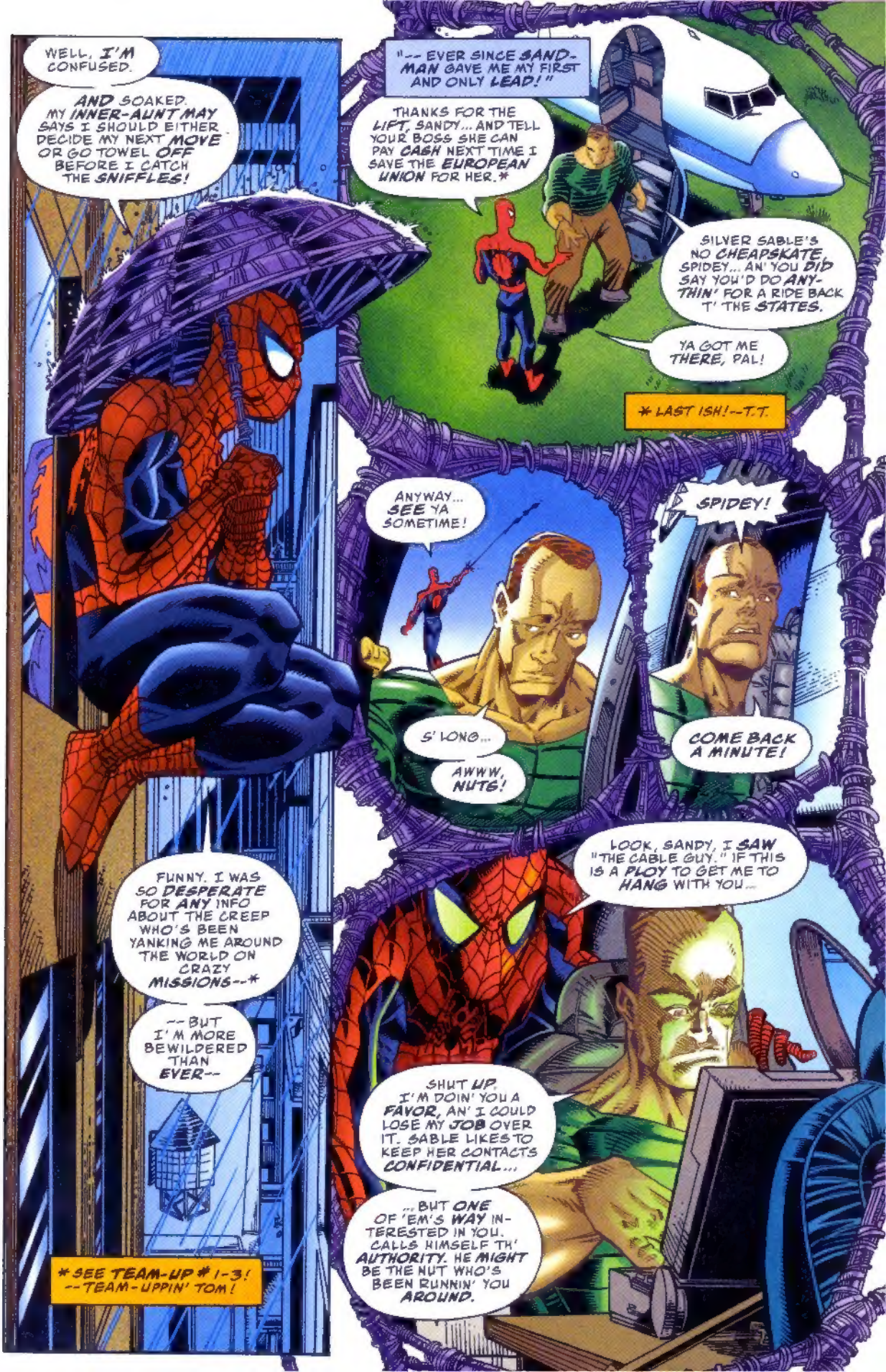
CAR'S A TRASH-HAULER... WORTH MORE THAN I'LL SEE IN FIVE YEARS OF PUSHING THE MAIL CART.
SKREEE
SLOW DOWN, YOU RICH ###%!!'&! DON'T YOU SEE ME?
GOOD. THEY STOPPED. I'M PLEADING FOR HELP, BUT I CAN'T HEAR MY VOICE.
BUT I HEAR THEIRS... LIKE SIRENS. NO WORDS, NO MEANING. I BURN WITH FEAR.
NOT MINE. THEIRS.
AND I'M AT WORK AGAIN, SMOKING ON THE ROOF. WATCHING A STAR FALL.
I MAKE OUT WHERE IT'S HEADED AND I FEEL MY OWN FEAR...
...AND, BACK AT THE BRIDGE, THE TRASH-HAULER REARS UP AND KICKS ME.
KRASHH!
I'M OVER THE SIDE, FEELING NO PAIN BUT THEIR FRIGHT...
...BUT THE COLD RED RIVER PUTS IT OUT.
SPLOOSH!

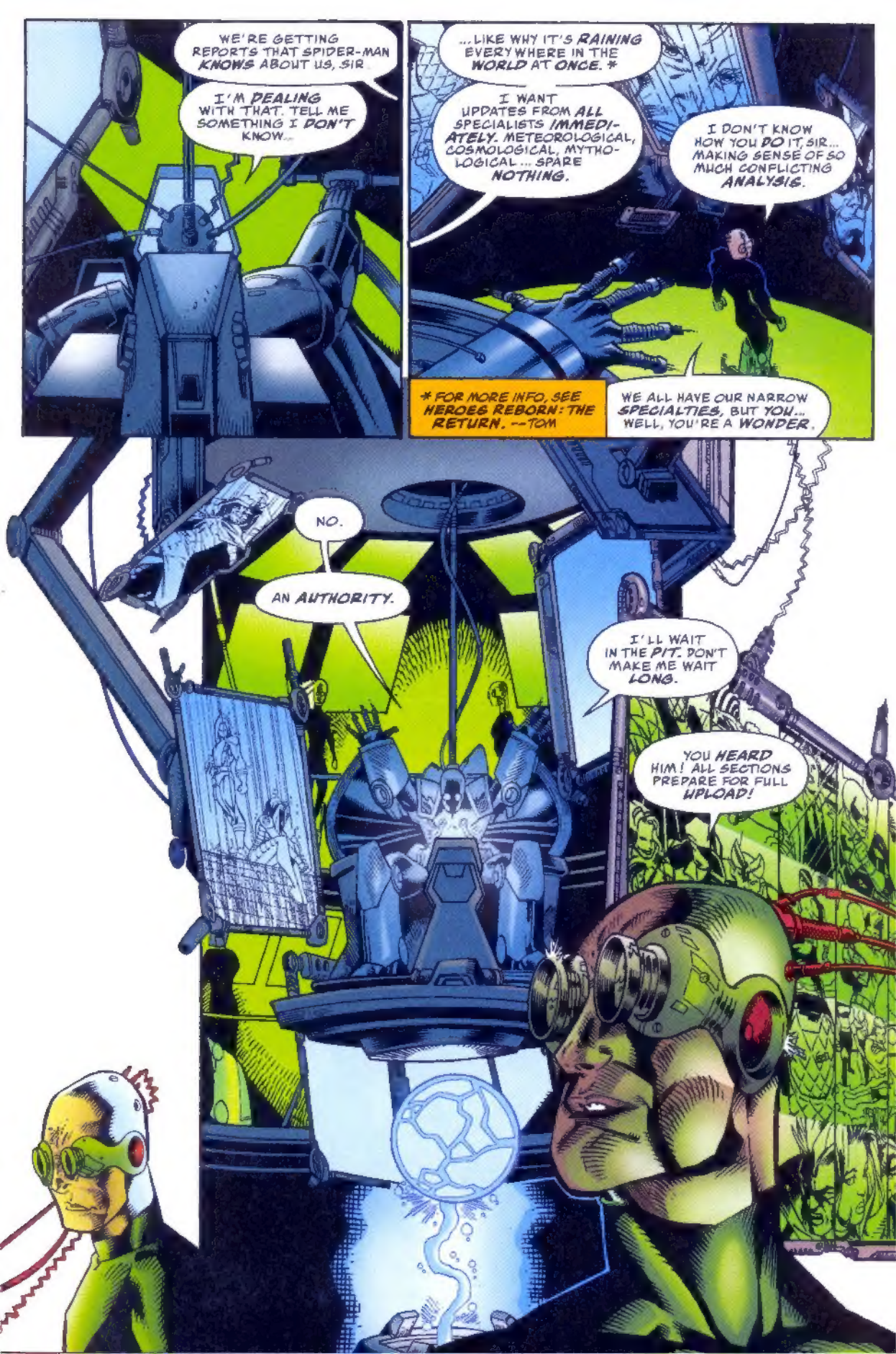

I WANT TO STAY DOWN HERE, BUT I HAVE TO GO TO WORK.
WHY DO I THINK THAT? NO ONE GOES IN AFTER BEING HIT BY A CAR!
I FEEL NOTHING... BUT I MUST LOOK LIKE...
...LIKE...
OH
MY
GOD.
YOU ARE IN A STRANGE, CONFINING SPACE.
WALLS. HARSH LIGHT. A SMOOTH, DRY FLOOR THAT CONNECTS YOU TO NOTHING.
PEOPLE. THEIR SHRILL VOICES. THE TENSION THEY RADIATE. IT'S YOUR TENSION NOW.
LEAN IN. KEEP MOVING. IT'S WHAT THEY EXPECT. DON'T AGITATE THEM.


WHOLE WORLD'S WORKED UP, TIPPI...
...IT'S NEVER RAINED EVERYWHERE BEFORE. MOST PEOPLE HAVE THEORIES...
...AND YOU'LL BE HEARING 'EM ALL, FROM GLOBAL WARMING TO DR. DOOM. WHEN YOU GET ON THE AIR, THE KEY IS--
I FEEL NOTHING, I THINK NOTHING. DON'T WORRY, I'VE BEEN AN ANCHOR LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW.
AND IF THE MAIL GUY KEEPS STARING, I CAN REHEARSE ON HIM.
A STING OF FEAR FROM THE WOMAN.
YOU! WHAT'S-YOUR-NAME!
YOU PLAN TO GIVE US OUR MAIL TODAY?
ANGER FROM THE MAN. BURNING EYES SET IN FLUSHED SKIN...
...LIKE STARS TUMBLING THROUGH RED SKY.
I GOT IT. DON'T PUT YOURSELF OUT.
BEFORE HIS RAGE CAN BECOME YOURS, IT CURDLES INTO REVULSION.
FUMMP!
HEY...
DISGUSTED, YOU HURRY AWAY.

AAHHR!
HE BURNED ME! HE BURNED ME!!
WHAT--?
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER, YOU--
THE LOATHING DIES IN YOUR STOMACH. SOMETHING KILLS IT.
YAARRH!
IT'S TERROR. HE'S SCARED OF YOU NOW...
...AAAHH...
...AND WHOEVER KNOWS FEAR...
...BURNS AT THE TOUCH...
...OF THE MAN-THING!
TIGHT SPACE. VOICES. SHRILL ALARM.
ALL EYES SHOOT HOT PANIC-BLASTS.
YOUR PANIC NOW.
STRANGE LEGS CARRY YOU AWAY.


WELL, I'M CONFUSED.
AND SOAKED. MY INNER-AUNT MAY SAYS I SHOULD EITHER DECIDE MY NEXT MOVE OR GO TOWEL OFF BEFORE I CATCH THE SNIFFLES!
FUNNY. I WAS SO DESPERATE FOR ANY INFO ABOUT THE CREEP WHO'S BEEN YANKING ME AROUND THE WORLD ON CRAZY MISSIONS--*
--BUT I'M MORE BEWILDERED THAN EVER--
* SEE TEAM-UP # 1-3! --TEAM-UPPIN' TOM!
"-- EVER SINCE SAND-MAN GAVE ME MY FIRST AND ONLY LEAD!"
THANKS FOR THE LIFT, SANDY... AND TELL YOUR BOSS SHE CAN PAY CASH NEXT TIME I SAVE THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR HER.*
SILVER SABLE'S NO CHEAPSKATE, SPIDEY... AN' YOU DID SAY YOU'D DO ANY-THIN' FOR A RIDE BACK T' THE STATES.
YA GOT ME THERE, PAL!
* LAST ISH! --T.T.
ANYWAY... SEE YA SOMETIME!
S' LONG...
AWWW, NUTS!
SPIDEY!
COME BACK A MINUTE!
LOOK, SANDY, I SAW "THE CABLE GUY." IF THIS IS A PLOY TO GET ME TO HANG WITH YOU...
SHUT UP. I'M DOIN' YOU A FAVOR, AN' I COULD LOSE MY JOB OVER IT. SABLE LIKES TO KEEP HER CONTACTS CONFIDENTIAL...
...BUT ONE OF 'EM'S WAY IN-TERESTED IN YOU. CALLS HIMSELF TH' AUTHORITY. HE MIGHT BE THE NUT WHO'S BEEN RUNNIN' YOU AROUND.

ALL HE COULD TELL ME IS THAT THIS AUTHORITY CHARACTER'S SOME KIND OF SHADY INFORMATION BROKER.
OLD BALD GUYS WITH WINGS I CAN FIND. MOP-TOPPED MALCONTENTS WITH EIGHT ARMS KINDA STICK OUT IN THE CROWD.
BUT HOW DO I BEGIN TO LOCATE A GUY LIKE--
THWIPP
WHOA!
LOSE SOMETHING?
SPIDER-MAN! D-DON'T HURT ME!
I WASN'T TRYIN' ANYTHIN', HONEST! I JUST WANNA GET YOUR ATTENTION!
NEXT TIME, WEAR STILTS.
GUY I DO SOME WORK FOR WANTED YOU TO HAVE THIS.
TAKE IT. PLEASE.
THE AUTHORITY
CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION
SERVICES
RIVERSIDE DRIVE
W YORK, NY
81) 555-9243
w.authority.dot


WE'RE GETTING REPORTS THAT SPIDER-MAN KNOWS ABOUT US, SIR.
I'M DEALING WITH THAT. TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW...
...LIKE WHY IT'S RAINING EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD AT ONCE. *
I WANT UPDATES FROM ALL SPECIALISTS IMMEDIATELY. METEOROLOGICAL, COSMOLOGICAL, MYTHOLOGICAL... SPARE NOTHING.
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DO IT, SIR... MAKING SENSE OF SO MUCH CONFLICTING ANALYSIS.
* FOR MORE INFO, SEE HEROES REBORN: THE RETURN. --TOM
WE ALL HAVE OUR NARROW SPECIALTIES, BUT YOU... WELL, YOU'RE A WONDER.
NO.
AN AUTHORITY.
I'LL WAIT IN THE PIT. DON'T MAKE ME WAIT LONG.
YOU HEARD HIM! ALL SECTIONS PREPARE FOR FULL UPLOAD!

THIS IS SIMPLE. WE'RE GETTING SPATIAL READINGS SIMILAR TO THOSE RECORDED DURING THE ONSLAUGHT AFFAIR.
THAT CONFIRMS IT. THE RAIN IS A RESULT OF A DIMENSIONAL INSTABILITY.
NO IT ISN'T! IT HAS TO DO WITH THE RECENT DESTRUCTION OF ASGARD! ENCHANTED ARTIFACTS ARE POPPING UP EVERYWHERE!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! EVERYONE KNOWS ASGARD IS JUST A MYTH! JUST BECAUSE SOME SUPER HERO CALLS HIMSELF THOR DOESN'T MEAN--
YOU'RE BOTH INSANE! THE NEXUS OF REALITIES IS CRASHING INTO--
STOP BICKERING!
I WANT INFORMATION, NOT CONSENSUS! FEED ME WHAT YOU HAVE, AND NOW!
YESSIR!
YESSIR!
FEEDING, SIR.
I STILL SAY ASGARD.
AAAAHH.
BETTER.
PING PING PING PING PING

PING PING PING
WAIT A MINUTE
GOOD LORD. SPECIALISTS 32, 45 AND 68, REPORT TO THE PIT.
45 REPORTING, SIR WAS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY--?
QUIET. I'VE SYNTHESIZED ALL OF YOUR ANALYSIS INTO A SINGLE SCENARIO. DIMENSIONAL BARRIERS ARE DESTABILIZING...
THE NORN STONES HAVE FALLEN FROM ASGARD TO EARTH..
AND BOTH FACTORS HAVE RECONSTRUCTED MAN-THING* AND SCRAMBLED HIS PERSONA WITH THAT OF A FELLOW STONE-BEARER, A HUMAN.
* AFTER HE WAS DISCORPORATED IN HEROES REBORN THE RETURN #1 -- TOM
WHAT'S THE WORST THAT CAN HAPPEN?
WELL GRANTING MAN-THING'S EXISTENCE, WHICH I DON'T--
IS THAT A PERSONAL ATTACK? YOU KNOW I'VE DEVOTED MY LIFE TO STUDYING THAT CREATURE!
ANSWER THE QUESTION!
WELL UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS THE STONES AMPLIFY POWER .. AND MULTIPLE STONES AMPLIFY POWER EXPONENTIALLY!
ACCEPTING THAT FOR A MOMENT, IF THE STONES CAME INTO CONTACT, THEY COULD AMPLIFY MAN-THING'S PSYCHOPYROKINESIS, MEANING -
--THE CREATURE WON'T HAVE TO TOUCH ANYONE. WHOEVER KNOWS FEAR-- AND THAT'S EVERYONE -- WILL BURN.
POOF.

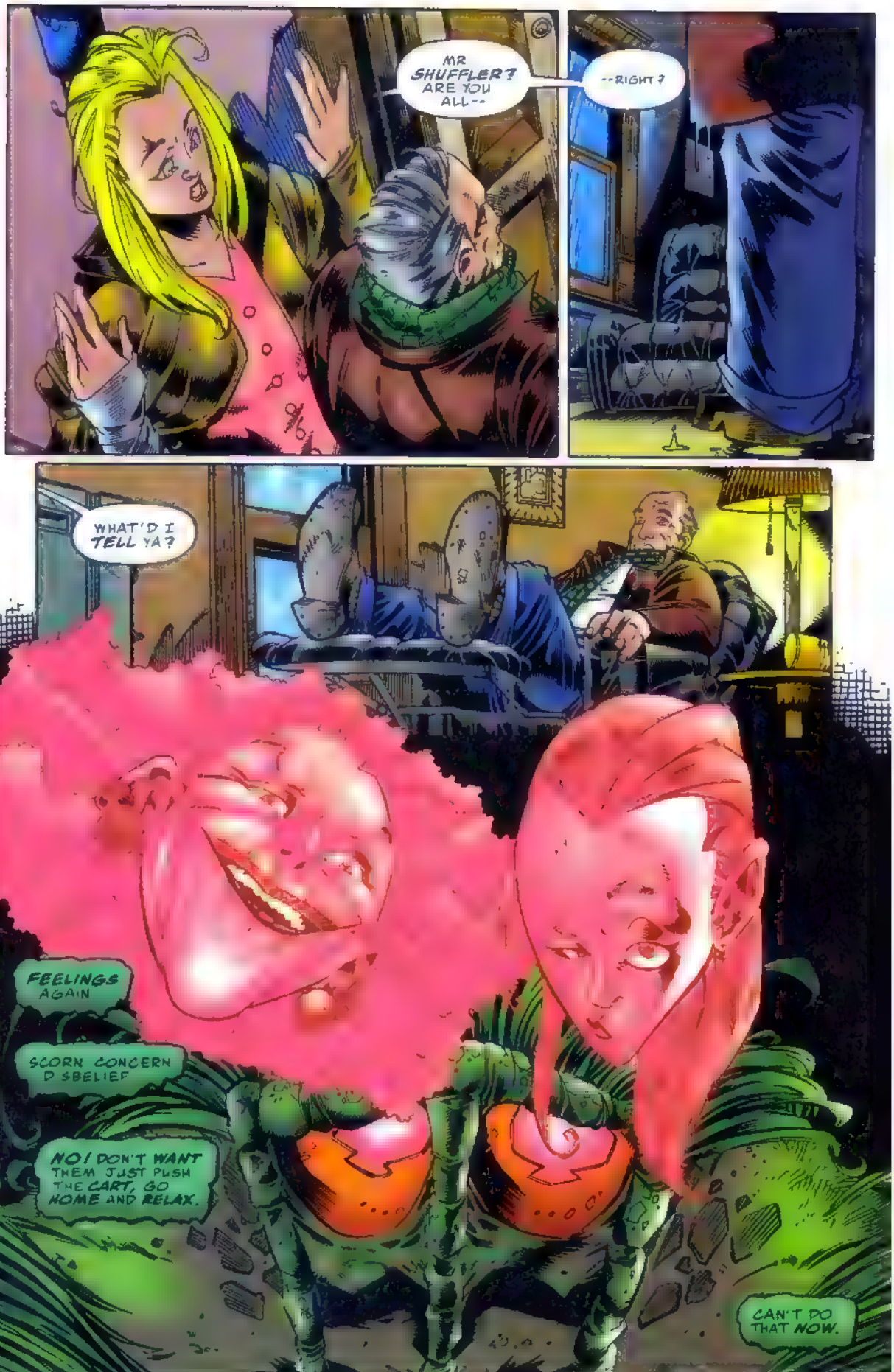
SOMETHING PULLS YOU UNDERGROUND
SMELL. DAMP DIM
SOMETHING MORE.
A VIBRATION. ROUTINE AUTOMATIC, AIMLESS MOTION.
BLIND, NUMB FAMILIARITY.
COMFORT.
JOINING.
YOUR SENSE OF THIS PLACE..
.. WAS HIS, TOO.
GO HOME FIND HIM
FEELING AHEAD COMING THIS WAY.
I REMEMBER. I FELT IT ONCE..
WITH HELEN.
SO SWEET.
IF THEY SEE ME IT'LL CHANGE.
I DON'T WANT THE FEAR AGAIN I DON'T WANT THE BURNING.
I CAN'T BE SEEN.
I'VE FELT THIS, TOO..

...EVERY DAY. PUSHING MY CART THROUGH THE SITES OF NETWORK CORRESPONDENTS AND EXECUTIVES..
THEIR WARDROBES AND BIG SALARIES, THEIR COLD PROFESSIONAL AIR ..
GLARING AT ME, TV SETS STARING BACK THEIR THOUGHTS FLASH, WORDS ON A SCREEN.
"THANK GOD I DIDN'T TURN OUT LIKE HIM."
"I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM, I DON'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT HIM--
"—I DON'T EVEN WANT TO KNOW HIS NAME."
CARL SHUFFLER, 241 EAST 19TH STREET MAILROOM EMPLOYEE SINCE 1972.
GOOD ATTENDANCE, GOOD RECORD.. NEVER SO MUCH AS SPIT ON THE FLOOR.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
19TH STREET.
"I WANT TO KNOW HE'S OKAY."
CAN'T HIDE OUT HERE FOREVER.
HAVE TO TRY TO MAKE IT..
...HOME.
THERE'S THE ADDRESS! WHAT A SPREAD!
GUESS THE INFORMATION BUSINESS MUST BE BOOMING!

SO WHAT DO I DO? RING THE BELL AND ASK HIM IF HE'S THE BANE OF MY EXISTENCE?
WHAT IF IT'S ALL A MIS-TAKE? WHAT IF HE'S JUST SOME HARMLESS, RICH SHNOOK WHO MINDS HIS OWN--
YZZZT!
YOW!
WHAT
SHRAK!
THE
HECK
WAS
THAT?
SETTLE DOWN, SPIDEY. ARM'S OKAY. IT WAS JUST SOME KINDA SCAN, THAT'S ALL.
YOU'RE LETTING THIS SITUATION PUSH YOUR BUTTONS, AND NO WONDER NOBODY LIKES TO BE MANIPULATED AND SNOOPED ON, AND--
--SHEESH! DIG THE DECOR! LOOKS LIKE I MADE IT IN TIME FOR NEIL DIAMOND!

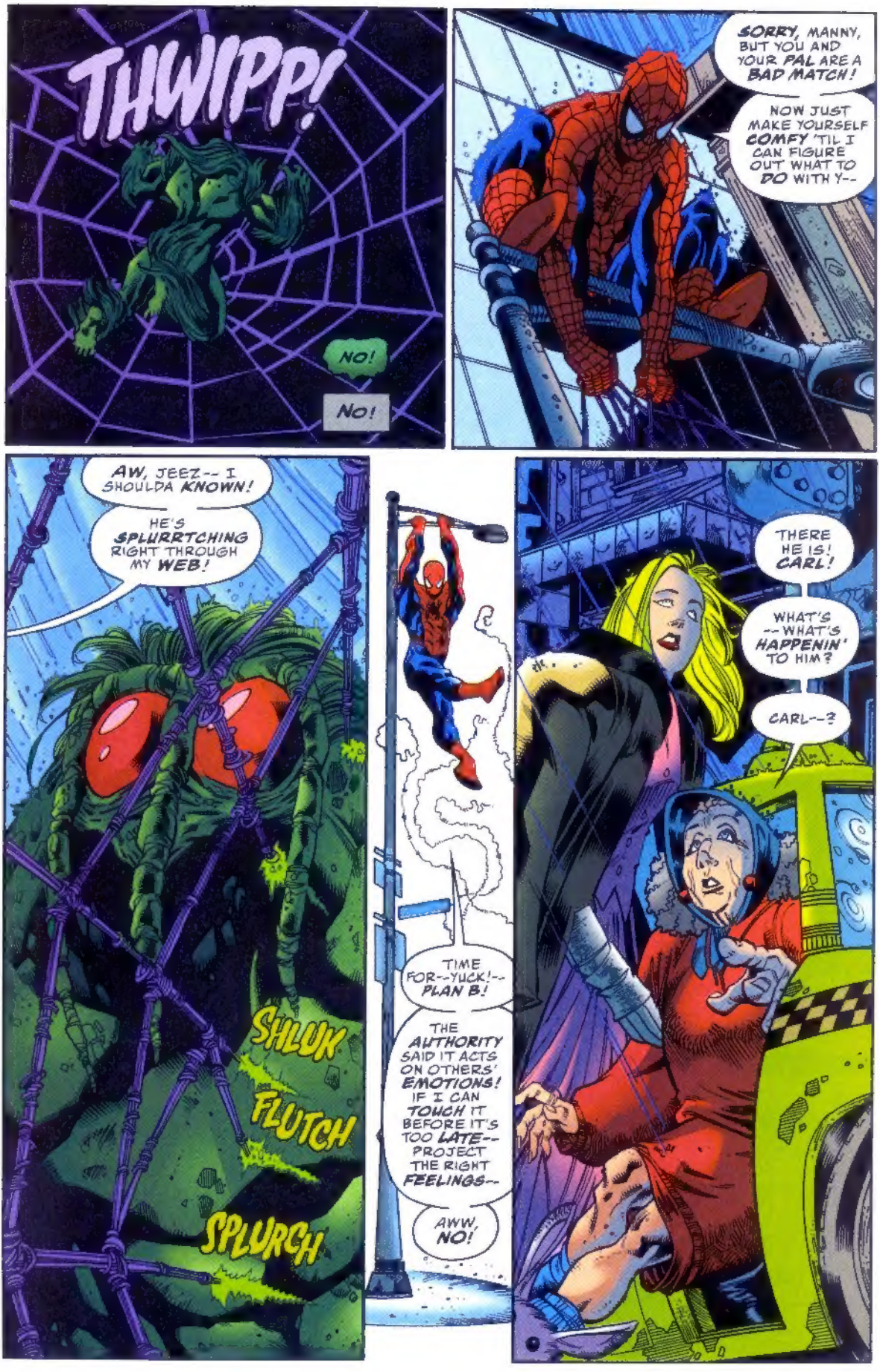
WHREEE!
WHAT--?
WELCOME, SPIDER-MAN I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU
...AND I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS MEETING FOR QUITE SOME TIME.
YOU HAVE?
THEN YOU ARE THE ONE WHO'S BEEN YANKING ME AROUND THE WORLD!
GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON WHY I SHOULDN'T TURN YOU INSIDE OUT!
I'LL GIVE YOU TWO: BECAUSE YOU DON'T DO SUCH THINGS.
AND BECAUSE UNLESS YOU FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS...
...MILLIONS WILL DIE!

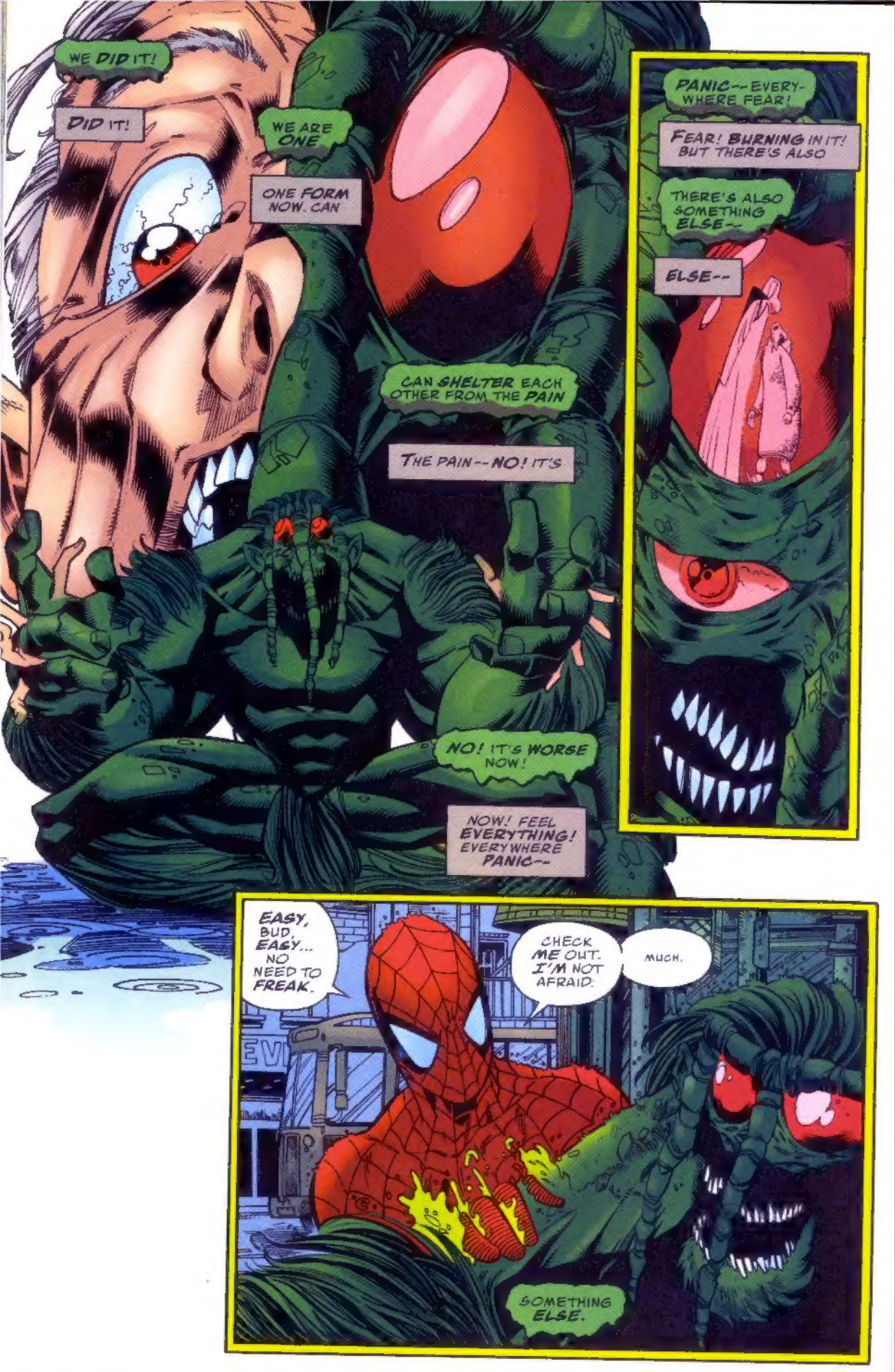
MRS SHUFFLER? I M--
I KNOW YOU RE THAT TIPPI BROAD FROM NEWS-LINE WHADDA YA WANT?
IS MR. SHUFFLER IN?
WHY WOULD A SLICK DAME LIKE YOU BE LOOK N' FOR A SLOB LIKE CARL, UNLESS--
OH, GOD ARE YOU TWO--
NO. IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT I'M JUST CONCERNED.
MRS. SHUFFLER, HAS CARL BEEN ACTING STRANGELY LATELY?
ONLY FOR 20 YEARS! HE MIGHT BE MR. PERSONALITY AT WORK--
--BUT ONCE HE GETS HOME HE FLOPS RIGHT IN HIS CHAIR WITHOUT SAYIN' A WORD AND JUST SITS LIKE A LUMP IN THE CUSHION!
SOMETIMES HE DON'T EVEN BOTHER TO TURN ON THE TV! IT'S BEEN A REAL HONEYMOON, I TELL YA!
SO DID HE SCREW UP AT WORK, OR-- CARL!
WHAT'S THIS GIRL DOIN' HERE? WHY AIN'T YOU AT WORK?


MR SHUFFLER? ARE YOU ALL--
--RIGHT?
WHAT'D I TELL YA?
FEELINGS AGAIN
SCORN CONCERN D SBELIEF
NO! DON'T WANT THEM JUST PUSH THE CART, GO HOME AND RELAX.
CAN'T DO THAT NOW.

YOU FEEL HIM! HE'S COMING CLOSER!
ANOTHER YOU! HE WANTS THE BLINDNESS!
HE WANTS THE NUMBNESS!
CARL--? WHAT'S GOT INTO--
KRAAA

"--WE GOTTA FIND MY POOR CARL!"
NOISE.
RAGE.
FUMES
GRIEF.
GLARE
ANXIETY
FEAR!
FIRE!
TOGETHER
WE CAN
SHUT IT
ALL OUT
FOREVER
IF WE
JOIN! IF WE--


THWIPP!
NO!
No!
SORRY, MANNY, BUT YOU AND YOUR PAL ARE A BAD MATCH!
NOW JUST MAKE YOURSELF COMFY 'TIL I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH Y--
AW, JEEZ-- I SHOULDA KNOWN!
HE'S SPLURRTCHING RIGHT THROUGH MY WEB!
SHLUK
FLUTCH
SPLURCH
TIME FOR--YUCK!-- PLAN B!
THE AUTHORITY SAID IT ACTS ON OTHERS' EMOTIONS! IF I CAN TOUCH IT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE-- PROJECT THE RIGHT FEELINGS--
AWW, NO!
THERE HE IS! CARL!
WHAT'S --WHAT'S HAPPENIN' TO HIM?
CARL--?


WE DID IT!
DID IT!
WE ARE ONE
ONE FORM NOW. CAN
CAN SHELTER EACH OTHER FROM THE PAIN
THE PAIN--NO! IT'S
NO! IT'S WORSE NOW!
NOW! FEEL EVERYTHING! EVERYWHERE PANIC--
PANIC--EVERYWHERE FEAR!
FEAR! BURNING IN IT! BUT THERE'S ALSO
THERE'S ALSO SOMETHING ELSE--
ELSE--
EASY, BUD, EASY... NO NEED TO FREAK.
CHECK ME OUT. I'M NOT AFRAID.
MUCH.
SOMETHING ELSE.

GOT
TO
ATTACK!
EASY! I SAID I--
WAIT A MINUTE.
LEAVING YOURSELF WIDE OPEN, AREN'T YOU?
SHLUUK
AHHHR HURRHHH! THAN--
THANK YOU.
UHHH.
MR. SHUFFLER?
I FELT... EVERYTHING AGAIN. IT WAS... IT WAS SO GOOD. I'D FORGOTTEN.
SOME OF IT HURT, BUT THE REST OF IT... HELEN...
I LOVE YOU.
CARL! ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE, YOU'RE DRUNK!
THE STONE...

DANGER!
NORN STONE AMPING MY SPIDER-SENSE! TENDRILS OF ALARM EMBRACING THE EARTH!
MAN-THING RECOMPOSING AT A FLORIDA NEXUS-POINT
KZZZAK!
LINEN TRUCK, BAD BRAKES, JOHANNESBERG!
HUMANOIDS! GLOBE OF INFINITE KNOWLEDGE IN ITALY!
BABY LEANING OUT A WINDOW IN SYRACUSE!
I FEEL
IT ALL.
ALL THE DANGER
IN THE WORLD.
"SPIDER-MAN, GET UP! GET THE STONE!"
IT'S VANISHING--!
WHAT A WASTE! WE COULD HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH--.
YOU OWE ME, SPIDER-MAN! IT'S TIME FOR THE TASK I'VE BEEN PREPARING FOR YOU, AND YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT NOW--
--WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO OR NOT!
NEXT: SPIDER-MAN AND...?